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CALLE ANCHA - PRINCIPAL STREET IN BACOLOD

THE

National Geographic Magazine

VOL. X FEBRUARY, 1899 No. 2

THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE PHILIPPINES

By MAX L. TORNOW,

of Berlin and Manila

General interest in the Philippines, a group of islands long all but forgotten by the rest of the world, has been again thoroughly awakened by the present commotion of Cuba. Even while the final settlement of the Philippine question, it is scarcely to be expected that the islands can again fall into forgetfulness. A glance, therefore, at the economic condition of the country, with a few of the more important statistics, will not be out of place, for an exhaustive consideration of the subject would occupy far more space than the present article admits of.

AGRICULTURE

Commencing with the products of the soil, two important points strike us as testifying to the varied and fertile character of the land: the geographical position of the islands, extending 20 degrees of latitude, and the plentiful supply of water. On the other hand, in addition to smaller obstacles raised by the administration, particularly as regards large plantations, the want of labor militates seriously against industrial extension, so that of the arable land only a very small part is to-day under cultivation. The result is that, notwithstanding the richness of the soil, we find that the total returns are nothing like what they should be.

Not only do all tropical fruits flourish, but also the plants of the temperate zones, such as wheat, barley, and potatoes. Experiments were made some years ago with wheat and barley and

met with every success; and there is today a German planter in Benguet cultivating potatoes. I am fully convinced that in certain parts the vine could be grown, and at all events those fruits which demand a mild climate. Attempts have been made with tea to a limited extent, and the results have not been unfavorable; but to all extensive planting—and this is the only way in which it is remunerative—the want of railways, good roads, and laborers presents the greatest difficulty. Not less annoying is the attitude assumed by the Spanish officials and the monks, unless the planter is ready to dance at their command.

The principal agricultural products exported are sugar, hemp, and tobacco, and to a less extent coffee, the cultivation of which, however, has of late greatly decreased. Indigo, sapan-wood, and copra must not be left unmentioned, for they may certainly be expected to take a higher place in the Philippine trade in the future than is the case at present. Rice and maize are grown only for home consumption, and even for this purpose the supply is not large enough. Rice is imported from Saigon and Bangkok and cocoa from Java, although the extremely fertile soil of the Philippines could produce all that is required at home and enough to admit of a large export trade as well. Formerly—from 1850 to 1880, and perhaps later—rice was exported from the islands, but the quantity gradually decreased until exportation ceased altogether, and finally the grain began to be imported. The blame lies with the miserable administration of the country. The planter can no longer compete with Rangoon, Saigon, and Bangkok, where the authorities know how to meet the farmers when necessary, and where ships are not exposed to endless chicanery, such as is practised by the Manila custom-house officials. For this reason most foreign vessels are careful to steer clear of the latter port. Sugar is chiefly exported from the Visayan islands, and the trade is almost exclusively in Iloilo, the largest place after Manila, situate on the island of Panay. Cebu, the third largest port of the archipelago, does now but a small and steadily declining trade in hemp.

The best tobacco grows in the north of Luzon, in the province Isabella, and the south of Cagayan, the most northern province of that island, in the valley of the Rio Grande de Cagayan. The northern provinces of Luzon, from the Gulf of Lingayen, in the west, to the Pacific, are separated from Manila by a range of high mountains, the Caraballo, over which there is, with the exception of a path and the telegraph, no road whatever, much less a

railway. The tobacco, therefore, is sent on covered boats, called "barongayanes," down the Rio Grande to Aparri, and there shipped by steamer to Manila. A flat-bottomed steamboat also runs from Ilagan, when the water allows it; otherwise it goes only as far as Tuguegarao. In this way the transport from the

VIEWS ON THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN

richest northern tobacco center, Echague (which as the crow flies is only about 150 miles), often takes as much as three weeks.

Tobacco has also been planted on the west coast of the northern part of Luzon and on the Visayas islands. This, however, is of inferior quality, and is mostly exported to Spain. In

Manila is not used, except, perhaps, by the Chinese factories for inferior cigarettes. Regarding the tobacco monopoly, abolished in 1881, I shall have some remarks to make later.

An important and world-famed article is Manila hemp, or abaca, a product of the *Musa textilis*. It is remarkable that, although there are the most various species of the genus flourishing all over the tropics and in warm climates generally, the *Musa textilis* appears to thrive to the best advantage only in the Philippines. Attempts to grow the plant in other places have been uniformly unsuccessful. Like its better-known relative, the edible banana (*Musa paradisiaca*), the stem of the plant is formed by the leaf-stalks, in the center of which again is the blossom stem. The finest growth is obtained in the volcanic and rainy districts of the Philippines, more particularly in Camarines Sur, Albay, Samar, Leite, Marinduque, Cebu, and in some of the small neighboring islands, as well as in Negros and Mindanao. The valuable hemp-fiber is found in the petioles, from which it is taken before the plant has borne fruit, as otherwise the fibers lose in elasticity and luster. In two or

STRIPPING THE OUTSIDE OF THE MUSA TEXTILIS

three years the plant has usually attained such growth that it can be cut down, the leaves removed, the green epidermis stripped from the stem, and either the bast-strips torn off lengthwise or the petioles separated singly, and the inner membrane, with the pulpy portion of the plant, removed. The bast-strips thus

obtained are then drawn under a knife in order to scrape away any pulp that may have remained on them. The product, after having been dried in the sun, is then ready for shipment. This process, though simple, involves a great loss of fiber, which might be avoided by the use of more efficient stripping machines. It is difficult to accustom the natives to anything novel, but when once progress has gained a general footing headway will soon be made in particular paths also. Manila hemp has so far been equaled by none, much less excelled.

The principal article is fair current, with its higher and lower grades. Of less importance are quilot and the silk-like lupis.

which, besides their use in the manufacture of fine native fabrics, are also employed for superior toilet articles in Europe, especially in the ladies' hat trade. From the current sorts excellent ships' cables and miners' ropes are made, and in America, where great quantities are consumed, they are used to make grain-binders for harvesting. Hemp comes into the market in bales of two Spanish piculs (280 pounds English). The price varies much, being subject often to great fluctuations, which naturally give rise to speculation. About the middle of

the present century the price ranged between $4.00 and $5.00 (with high course of exchange), steadily rising. In the sixties we find it from $7.00 to $9.00, and in the eighties $11.00 was the average. In 1899 it was artificially pushed up to $17.00, an enormous crash being the natural result, and all this at a high or even higher course (2/ 3½d–3/ 1½d per $). The course now began to fall steadily, until after the outbreak of the war it stood at 1/ 10d. Of late the prices for fair current have been between $6.00 and $9.00 per picul, at a course of 2/, and at the end of

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

for consumption by foreigners. It is by no means improbable, however, that in some provinces, at any rate, they would thrive well. There are but few goats. Of swine and poultry, on the other hand, there is a surplus, the flesh of the former especially forming a favorite article of food with the natives.

In addition to the strong but very small horses, resembling those of Java, that most useful domestic animal, the carabao, or black [illegible] buffalo, thrives abundantly. The white species is also occasionally to be found. The buffalo is employed for many purposes: for working the pumps on plantations, for sugar presses, and for freight purposes. In the mountains the buffalo is met with in the wild state. It is, however, the buffalo—only the domestic species—that has been neglected. Nevertheless, in the course of years the degeneration has been so great that there now exists a marked distinction between the wild and the domestic animal. The wild animal has a [illegible] head and [illegible] horns, while the domestic animal has a long head with [illegible] broad horns. No attempts to improve the [illegible] indigenous to the Philippines have been undertaken by the Spaniards.

MINERALS.

[illegible] and [illegible] form the only resources of the country that are regarded as it has [illegible] been. [illegible] there is another [illegible] property in the [illegible] now slumbering [illegible] ground.

The islands yield at present [illegible] gold, silver, copper, [illegible] for [illegible] quantity, and [illegible] petroleum, has been [illegible]. [illegible] explorations have several [illegible] been undertaken by engineers, yet never to the extent necessary to start [illegible] over a [illegible] extensive area. The [illegible], Don [illegible] and Don Antonio Hernandez are [illegible] for [illegible] work [illegible].

Coal is pretty widely spread over the whole archipelago. It was first discovered in 1827 in the island of Cebu, then in Negros, in Mindanao, on the island of Luzon, [illegible] and [illegible] and in many other places. The wealth thus appears [illegible]. The coal in [illegible] is of the best quality [illegible], the experiments having shown it to be equal to [illegible] found [illegible] mining [illegible] south at a [illegible] depth [illegible] In 1874 [illegible] further

wholesale according to Hooker, and finds its way principally to Paris. It forms the basis of all finer quality perfumes and one [illegible] compensated [illegible] in the perfumery [illegible]. The distillation of the essence of ilang-ilang has been generally connected with, and carried on exclusively by Germans.

Carriage-building is of great importance in Manila. The demand is enormous, as every man of any standing has his carriage, and the wealthier mestizos excel in the luxury of their vehicles.

That soap and other such articles of popular use are manufactured, it is scarcely necessary to state. There are also three lithographic establishments, owned by Germans.

Besides the cloth-making industry above referred to, the natives manufacture excellent homespun fabrics of cotton, hemp, silk and piña, the fibers of the pineapple leaf. The fine embroidery here is also a domestic industry. These articles do not enter at all into the export trade today, but they may certainly be expected to do so before long, the more so if the industry continues [illegible]

not only the fabrics themselves, but also the designs and colors. Some coarse hemp textiles have already been exported within the last few years. The finer hemp and hemp and silk fabrics, though much prized by ladies for dressmaking, have not yet entered into the trade, owing so far to [illegible] favor with the European costumers. A most interesting display of the produce [illegible]

[illegible] in 1887.

It is certain that the [illegible], whose future is already assured by the [illegible] wealth, will play a part in the industry of the coming years equal to, and surpassing, that of Japan.

TRADE

There seems to me to be no doubt that even before the arrival of the Spaniards these islands had relations with the Malay archipelago and China, and to a certain extent carried on barter, particularly with the latter country. Regular trade, however, first began to develop in 1571, when Legaspi established himself in Manila. The inhabitants of Cagayan [illegible] to Juan de Salcedo in 1572, and their cotton fabrics were brought every year by Chinese and Japanese vessels.

Manila is without doubt the most advantageously situated

port and trading place in the East, and forms the center of the trade between China, Japan, the Dutch possessions, and Australia. The position of the Philippines is likewise extremely favorable for the west coast of America, and Manila should be the chief port of eastern Asia. That it does not actually occupy this position is owing to the bad system of administration on the part of the government. Had it been otherwise, I am exceedingly doubtful whether Hongkong could ever have reached its present state of importance in the face of Manila.

During the northeast monsoon vessels going through the straits to China must fight against wind and waves to get protection against the strong adverse winds. It would therefore be quite [illegible] to touch at Manila, but they avoid the port for the reason stated above—the [illegible] of the customs house. For the same reason the regular steamers between Hongkong and Australia steam right past the bay of Manila without stopping there. Passengers from Manila to Australia have therefore first to cross to Hongkong and there take passage from there, returning again directly past Manila and Zamboanga, so close to the latter that the passengers may almost be recognized on the steamer [illegible] the first [illegible] — [illegible].

After 1565 trade was carried on between Manila and New Spain, which fact gave [illegible] to Manila [illegible] between 1600 and 1700, however, [illegible] of Manila [illegible] for a variety of [illegible] restriction [illegible]. In 1720 the [illegible] between Manila and New Spain [illegible] directly [illegible] Manila [illegible]. This was nevertheless [illegible] the fact that the Acapulco silk trade gave [illegible].

Galleons were sent every year from Manila to Acapulco, and from 1602 to [illegible], the merchandise [illegible] to the value of $250,000. The trade was permitted by the government, and bringing back double the price. Later the maximum rose to $300,000, and in 1734 to $500,000. Finally the amount reached $[illegible],000, and the return freight to [illegible]. From Mexico the galleons [illegible] silver, [illegible], silks, etc., with gold articles and other products of China, Japan, and the Philippines. [illegible] silk stockings are [illegible] especially

The Stamp Act Crisis

Spanish flag remained until 1882 and embodied in that law a reduction of 20 per cent of the customs house charges. This was gradually diminished every year by 5 per cent, and in the last year by 10 per cent more.

The following table shows the state of the shipping trade in Manila in earlier years:

	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	[illegible]
Foreign ships	106	98	99	89	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spanish ships	34	29	51	38	41	4[illegible]
Total	130	127	150	127	97	185

In 1898, 112 foreign vessels, aggregating 74,[illegible] tons, mostly in ballast, entered to take up cargo, and 103 Spanish vessels entered and sailed with cargo. To show a comparison of the movement during the past two years, I have compiled the following table:

	1896				1897			
	Incoming		Outgoing		Incoming		Outgoing	
	Ships	Tonnage	Ships	Tonnage	Ships	Tonnage	Ships	Tonnage
Foreign	81	2[illegible],[illegible]	1[illegible]5	251,639	204	30[illegible],190	6[illegible]	[illegible]
Spanish	67	65,[illegible]	46	94,092	48	94,326	40	88,[illegible]
Total	148	357,[illegible]	2[illegible]	[illegible],261	252	[illegible]5,0[illegible]	2[illegible]	[illegible]

At the commencement of the century the imports were far greater than the exports; then the two became about equal, and finally the exported goods make first. In recent years the exports have always exceeded the imports by some 20 per cent.

The imports to [illegible] in 1898, according to the duties paid, amounted to—

Under foreign flag	$1[illegible] [illegible]
Under Spanish flag	[illegible]
	$[illegible]

There was a time when a young person could go to sea as a matter of course, almost as a matter of fate, without much thought about what it would mean. The boy who left a small harbor town in the early years of the century did so because his father had gone, and his father's father before him, and because the sea was the only road that led anywhere worth going. He carried little more than a change of clothes, a few tools, and the expectation that he would learn by watching and by doing, and that he would be treated as a man as soon as he could prove himself one.

years later went to a great increase in exports—in the case of sugar tenfold, though with a decrease in [illegible] of a [illegible] gives the exports as follows:

	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sugar	[illegible] piculs	[illegible] piculs
	[illegible] "	[illegible] "
Sapan-wood	[illegible] "	[illegible]
Husked rice	[illegible] cavanes [illegible] piculs	[illegible] cavanes [illegible] piculs
Unhusked rice (palay)	[illegible] cavanes [illegible] piculs	
[illegible]	[illegible] gantas	
Cigars	[illegible] arrobas [illegible] kilograms	[illegible] arrobas [illegible] kgr.

The remaining less important articles are omitted.

[illegible] foreigners have ceased to be hindered and less subject to discriminations, trade has steadily increased, even if not to the extent it should, for the trade of the Philippines should be twenty times what it is today. At the end of the twenties imports and exports were practically equal:

	Imports	Exports
[illegible]	$1,[illegible],000	$ [illegible],000
1828	1,[illegible]	1,[illegible]

Up to the seventies both had been increased more than tenfold, the exports more normally exceeding the imports. In round numbers, the trade for the years 1870, 1875, and 1880 may be stated as follows:

	Imports	Exports
1870	$[illegible],000,000	$ [illegible],000,000
1875	1[illegible],000,000	[illegible],000,000
1880	1[illegible],000,000	2[illegible],000,000

The only exception was the year 1874, when the exports [illegible] at [illegible] millions and the imports at 22 [illegible]. In 1892 the exports were [illegible] millions [illegible] the imports [illegible].

It is a difficult matter to give statistics on the imported goods, since there are many taxable articles not entered separately in the custom-house, but classed for the purposes of duty in certain classes. Some of the leading goods may, however, be mentioned: from England, Manchester articles figure conspicuously, together with a number of less important wares, such as [illegible] ware

Exports from Manila in the Years 1882–1897

Year	Hemp	Cordage	Coffee	Tobacco	Cigars
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The terms in the produce market in Manila are always such now [illegible] in business with the government that the Manila house has frequently to make advances which certainly are less risky, though if one is cautious with whom one deals the business is safe enough. The main thing in the case of [illegible] is to know the exact state of affairs and to be in a position to form a sound judgment at a moment's notice. The business between the importers and the Chinese retail dealers is done either by means of acceptances (pagarés) at six months or, as is now more general, cash within four to six weeks with 2 per cent discount, but, unfortunately, the four to six weeks are very often exceeded. Insolvencies frequently occur among the Chinese. The creditors usually prefer to come to an arrangement, for if once the matter comes before the [illegible], it is the invariable rule that the creditors get nothing at all.

[illegible], particularly in differences with the custom-house, are imposed [illegible] every possible occasion the officials [illegible] a share of the [illegible]. A shipment, for instance, does not deliver precisely the number of bales stated in the manifest, is fined for each bale more or less $1,000. In every bill of entry the weight must be stated [illegible]. In this way there are a hundred kinds of chicanery practised, all costing [illegible] unnecessary expenditure of money, the greater part of which goes into the pockets of the officials.

[illegible]

The tobacco monopoly, with all its heartless severity and injustice, was introduced in 1781, under the governor Don José Basco y Vargas, the government, by no means for the first time, finding itself in a critical financial condition. The population guessed at what was coming and opposed the new measure, which was only carried out by force of arms. The law prescribed that every native might plant tobacco, but might sell only to the government. In the tobacco districts every native had to grow a certain number of plants and devote all his attention to them. The collecting of caterpillars was done by women and children gratuitously.

This might have been well enough, and the people might also have enjoyed the fruits of their labor; but the worst was yet to be told. The tobacco was sorted, "aforado," as it is technically called, and in that audit formulated so as to prevent fraud. The principal matter in sorting was the length.

18 inches and over was primera, first class.
18–14 inches was segunda, second class.
14–10 inches was tercera, third class.
10–7 inches was quarta, fourth class.

Smaller but good leaves were sometimes classed as fifth. For valuing the tobacco the officials used a scale, according to which the planter received some 20 to 30 per cent of the real value. But he was not paid in cash; he received a certificate, a kind of treasury bond. Had the people had security for the payment of these bonds at a certain date, the latter would soon have circulated as current currency as paper money. But, far from this being so, no one would have them, knowing that five or six years might pass before they were redeemed. The tobacco planters lived under more miserable conditions than the worst-kept slaves, and were glad if some Chinese speculator would give a third of the value of their certificates, for who could say whether the purchaser was not making his 200 per cent. Consequently the bonds were practically given away. In the cigar manufactories in Manila 30,000 workpeople were employed and were always paid in cash, so that their lot was more enviable than that of the planters. That under this system, in spite of the enormous army of officials, a profit of four or five million dollars was annually yielded can be easily understood.

The saviour of the unfortunate tobacco planter was one of those Spaniards in whom there was still the blood of the Hidalgos, the late Intendente, Don José Jimeno Agius. In his report to

[illegible]

Of the products of the country the principal ones pay export duties as follows:

Cotton	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Dyes and indigo,	[illegible]
Hemp	[illegible]
Sugar	[illegible]
Cocoanuts and copra	[illegible]
Tobacco from Cagayan and Isabela	[illegible]
Tobacco from Visayas and Mindanao	[illegible]
Tobacco from other provinces	[illegible]
Manufactured tobacco	[illegible]

and [illegible] pays $1.50 per 1,000 kilos [illegible] or more.

In 1890 the harbor dues on both exports and imports were raised—at first by 20 per cent of the import duty and 1 per cent of the export value—for the purpose of building a new harbor, and [illegible] with some few alterations remain to this day. The harbor is a long way from being finished, nor will it ever be finished if the present system continues, even though lately the work has been a little expedited. At a normal rate of work, what has been done could have been finished in one or two years. With the amount received through the increased dues, ten harbors could have been built, but probably the money no longer exists.

The duty returns were, in:

1894	$997,000
1895	[illegible]
1896	[illegible]

In the last few years they have stood much higher, this being principally caused by foreign houses.

For the past three years the returns were:

	1895	1896	[illegible]
From foreign houses	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
From Spanish houses	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Thus the foreign houses paid of the import taxes, in:

1895	83 per cent
1896	88
1897	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Antipolo, the famous place of pilgrimage in the Philippines, lies on the western spurs of the cordillera, in the province of Morong. It enjoys a comparatively agreeable climate, and therefore would make at least form a very suitable health resort for the inhabitants of Manila, and it seems perhaps a climatic health resort in general. For Europeans working under great strain such a place would be invaluable, particularly during the hot season, when the night temperature falls so little that refreshing sleep is often quite out of the question. Nor is it absolutely necessary that Antipolo itself be chosen; a still more suitable spot could perhaps be found in the neighborhood. The chief point is to set about the matter in a practical way and properly carry through the scheme.

Antipolo is frequently visited by foreigners. As far as the [illegible] roads over which, for the Philippines, are tolerably good roads, though they certainly cannot be compared to those of English counties. After crossing the river, a half-day's journey [illegible] over roads which are nowhere good and in places are as [illegible] as possible brings us through Cainta and Taytay to Antipolo. The effect of the journey is felt for some time afterward. In April, while the heat in Manila was unendurable, I have had to put on a summer overcoat in the evening in Antipolo.

For such undertakings as I have mentioned, and which can only be carried out by companies, it is absolutely necessary that concessions be granted with proper guarantees [illegible]. Hitherto the question has been treated dilatorily for years, until finally all interest in the matter was lost. Once a concession was actually granted for a railway to Antipolo, but the line was never completed.

It would take us too long to deal with everything which would assist in bringing the country rapidly to a more prosperous state, or [illegible] remunerative undertakings. What is stated, however, in general can be gathered from a consideration of the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. If once the first step were made, more would follow, but only after a considerable time [illegible] wasted in [illegible].

I must not omit to give some particulars of Manila itself.

At the place where the river Pasig, the outlet of Lake [illegible], flows into the bay of Manila, [illegible] the oldest part of Manila, which, being the old walled city, is called Intra Muros. It is inhabited by monks, officials, soldiers and a few shopkeepers. [illegible] and [illegible], and have [illegible] property in it. [illegible] southward along the shore of the bay

company, which has not yet been able to raise its capital [illegible].

There are two tramcar lines in the city, and a steam street tramway runs to Malabon, a large village situated to the north.

Besides the private vehicles, there are in the city a large number of hackney coaches. These are divided into three classes: the carriages (landau, with two or three places (four wheelers), closed doors and one horse), and carromatas (two-wheelers), drawn by one horse. The latter are also used in the interior, so far as there are any roads. The transport of goods is carried on by means of two-wheeled carts, drawn each by a buffalo and holding some 1,000 kilos.

Life for foreigners in the Philippines is quite agreeable, and particularly so in Manila, where there are comfortable residences, nor is there lack of company, excursions, and other sources of recreation. In other respects, also, creature comforts are by no means neglected, provided the requirements are not too high. If the city and its neighborhood were developed in the manner indicated, there would be nothing lacking to make life more thoroughly agreeable. Manila would then soon surpass all other tropical towns as regards health and comfort.

What the future may bring to the rich and beautiful archipelago it is difficult to say. Let us, at all events, by all means hope that it may not be long before it may once more come forth into that degree of importance to which it is by nature entitled.

A RECENT report of the British vice-consul at Hodeidah on the ... contains some interesting information concerning the province of Yemen. Mocha, once its capital and the queen of the Red Sea, has now only ruins to show what its glory was in the fifteenth century. Zebid, also a city of note in ancient times, is now a centre of the trade in hides and skins. Except weaving a kind of cloth, dyeing, making mats and ropes and building sailing vessels, there are no manufacturing industries. All the good grounds are cultivated, however, and, but for the unsettled state of the province and the want of education, the inhabitants would be more prosperous. Hodeidah is connected with the outer world by a line of steamers, and a weekly mail is sent to the chief towns of the interior. It is also connected by telegraph with Massowah and Aden, and with foreign countries through Persia. The population of the province is estimated at 2,500,000.

MANILA AND THE PHILIPPINES

BY MAJOR A. FALKNER VON SONNENBURG,
Imperial German Army, late Military Attaché at Manila.

After Admiral Dewey's splendid victory at Cavite, the neutral powers sent their ships as quickly as possible to Manila Bay. It was expected that the quiet waters of the capital of the Philippines would become in the near future the scene of great military and naval activity and that many still debated questions in modern warfare would there find a practical answer.

It was only by chance that Germany had at that time a relatively strong squadron at hand on the eastern station. The territory acquired at Kiaochou only a few months before had made it necessary to assemble there two cruiser divisions, and as the news of the complete annihilation of the Spanish fleet became known, the admiral of one of these divisions had to go down from the Chinese and Japanese seas to the Philippines. The division was at that time engaged in drill and training in evolutions and target practice, and so it is easily to be understood that the division commander would not wish to divide his squadron, but, on the contrary, would be glad of the opportunity to make use of the trip down to Manila for training and evolutionary purposes. I do not believe that any order of the German government had been given to assemble a strong squadron at Manila. I understand that the leader of the division was wholly responsible for the gathering of his ships, and in this

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But besides these purely technical reasons it was to be considered that hundreds of our countrymen, [illegible] of Americans, scattered over the Philippines as merchants, traders, planters or engineers, might be in a very dangerous position. The insurrection of the Filipinos against the Spanish rule had become general, and rumors were heard that all the small ports, like Iloilo, [illegible] the different islands, each of which contained a few of our countrymen, were besieged by the insurgents, and that their lives and property were in the greatest danger.

Under these circumstances it was to be expected that after the arrival of the squadron in Manila the ships had to be [illegible] and

night attacks was considered and that agitators were leaving their eyes in the [illegible] around Manila.

From the refugee steamers nearby the sound of spanking oars swept over the quiet sea, and silvery clear voices of girls could be heard and merry laughter. There they danced their native dances to the accompaniment of the guitar, on the dirty decks of the vessels, lighted perhaps by only one smoky oil lamp, while officers of the different nations formed the enthusiastic audience of the graceful performers.

Quite a different picture was to be seen in the besieged town, Manila itself. The deep Pasig river running down from the large lake (Laguna de Bay) to the sea, divides the town into two parts, differing in their inhabitants, their buildings, their social life, and indeed in almost everything. To the left of the river is the old town Intra Muros. This purely Spanish town is surrounded by the walls of the fortress and covers a space of perhaps three-quarters of a mile square. Here the conquering Spaniards first settled 300 years ago. Massive stone buildings, including the government house, the archbishop's palace, monasteries and convents, line the narrow, dirty streets and squares, in which you meet scarcely any one but monks, soldiers, and dark [illegible]. There is no [illegible], quick [illegible] in that medieval town. There are no shops, no offices, no trade. One-third of all the buildings are the property of the churches of the different orders of monks, and another third is

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Having passed the dark fortress doors and the sentry sentries [illegible], you feel in a foreign, long past world. Here is the residence of that [illegible] which [illegible] that it would [illegible] to separate a gifted [illegible] people [illegible] from [illegible] culture had promised. From this place issued those [illegible] decrees which prohibited the importation of any books or papers for the natives which had not the sanction of the censor, and did not allow the poor [illegible] to raise more than one crop of rice a year for his own subsistence, even to prevent his [illegible]. Here was settled that [illegible] of the whole [illegible] of [illegible] between the four enormously wealthy and powerful orders of Augustinians, Dominicans, Franciscans, and the Recollets, and the government could only silently approve such an arrangement, knowing well that in that country it could rule only by and through the [illegible] monks. Like that of medieval lords,

[illegible] a common regiment not only for the natives but for every government official who might have dared to cross the ways of the priestly lords.

Since the days when the pious Spanish conqueror, holding in one hand the sword and in the other the cross, took possession of these islands, 300 long years ago, has lasted this terrible [illegible] over this unfortunate people. Then at last the reaction against that [illegible] took place. A highly gifted young Tagalo, educated in Europe and having great poetical talent, was able by his songs and poems to [illegible] his countrymen against the Spanish rule, and when some years ago [illegible] was arrested by the government and [illegible] without trial, on the Luneta in Manila, the Filipinos began their first insurrection against the hated priest government.

Terrible atrocities were committed at that time on both sides, and there was hard fighting, too, but at last the Spanish government succeeded in overcoming the more open resistance. But the fire was not extinguished. A secret society, the "Katipunan," spread its membership over the whole island of Luzon, preparing another uprising. The murdered poet had acquired the name of a national hero and martyr, and mysterious tales were told in all the Tagalo villages that he lived still in the [illegible] to come down at the right moment to take

[illegible]

And then the second insurrection began. The terrible scenes of cruelty were repeated, but again without any decisive result. A sort of armistice was arranged at the end of 1897 between the young Tagalo leader, Aguinaldo, and the Spaniards, and this continued until the beginning of the recent American-Spanish war and the glorious battle of Cavite.

Strange tales, [illegible] Intra Muros can tell. They know only the great but [illegible] Japanese colony that existed two hundred years ago in Manila town. Thirty thousand industrious Japanese once filled the streets of the old city, and the best regiments of the Spanish government in those old times were composed of Japanese warriors, but the narrow-mindedness and intolerance of the Spanish rulers drove out the followers of Buddha. The Japanese warriors, the Samurais, and the industrious and able workmen left the unfriendly and inhospitable country at the same time, and that long sleep began which was to end at last with the thunder of Admiral Dewey's guns.

The chronic want of money and perhaps also of energy, the laziness of the monks and friars, who may have been jealous of seeing another influence than their own established in the interior of all these islands, gives explanation enough of the fact that the Spanish rule has never been powerful in that country, but a stronger, more energetic and more gifted race, with unlimited financial resources, may do in the future all that former masters failed to do in three centuries.

If the Spanish government was weak from the military point of view, it was not less so from the standpoint of diplomacy, in the conciliation and persuasion of the big, mild natives.

Only one religious order succeeded, with their incomparable knowledge of the human heart, with the fine psychological and diplomatic means, in being loved and esteemed by natives and government alike. If the friars and their estates were considered enemies and were burned with all the energy of a long-oppressed race, the refined padres and monsignores of the famous society of the Jesuits remained immune from these savage feelings. They had understood that it was not the priest in his religious capacity, but the priestly lord, the priestly land owner, who owned property in the interior. They built up a magnificent scientific observatory, with the most valuable instruments of astronomy, seismology, magnetism, and meteorology. They connected their observatory with all the other meteorological stations in the far east, and saved by their prompt warnings hundreds of lives and thousands of dollars. When war times came over the country thousands of poor, homeless, and sick Tagalo men, women and children found a home in the wide courts and gardens of the Jesuit colleges. They had formed a safeguard of innumerables for their own safety with this praiseworthy money. They could rest assured that they would remain undisturbed in their scientific work, although between the fighting lines. The same men that lived in the refined atmosphere of the highest intellectuality understood the necessity of money; the same scrutinizing eyes that read every morning the lines of the self registering instruments understood how human nature has to be governed, and they have given to the former rulers of the islands a noble lesson. They have taught them that there are things in the world other than guns, they have taught them the eternal truth that science, knowledge is and shall be power.

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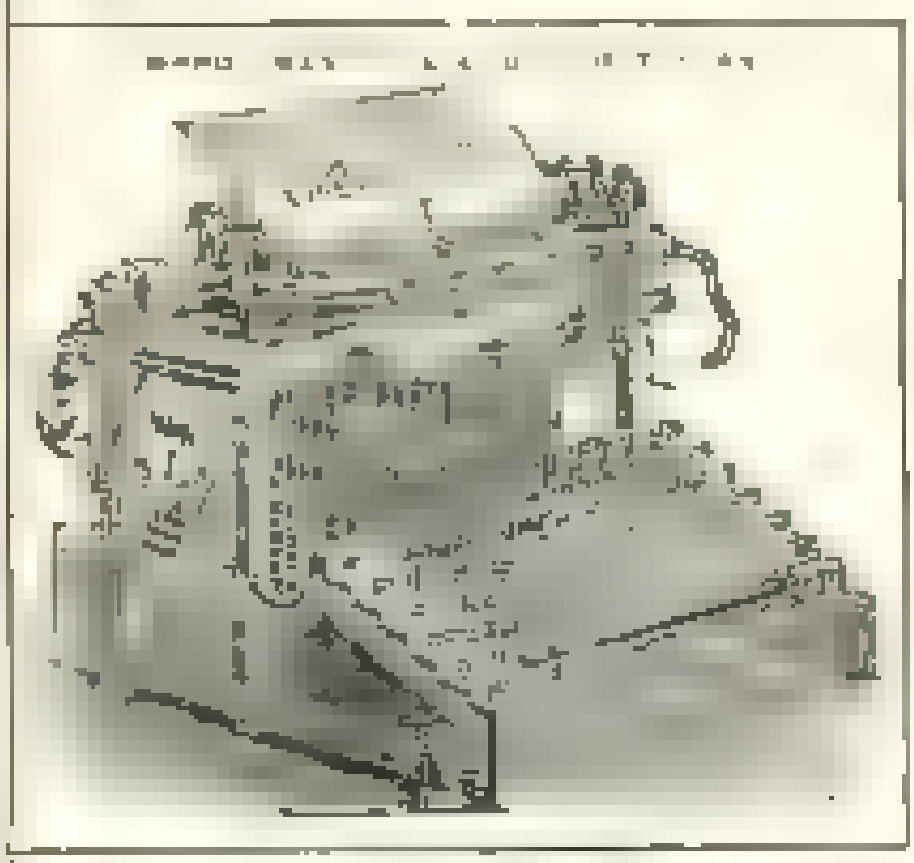

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